

COLORADO RIVER RECOVERY PROGRAM
FY-2004-2005 SCOPE OF WORK for:
Coordinated Reservoir Operations & Public Involvement

Project No.: C-14
(PIP 12C)

Lead Agencies: Colorado Water Conservation Board and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

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Category:

- ☐ Ongoing project
- ☒ Ongoing-revised project
- ☐ Requested new project
- ☐ Unsolicited proposal

Expected Funding Source:

- ☒ Annual funds
- ☐ Capital funds
- ☒ Other (explain)

I. Title of Proposal: Coordinated Reservoir Operations and Public Involvement

II. Relationship to RIPRAP: Colorado River Action Plan: Mainstem I.A.5.i.(2) & PIP 12C

Work items proposed are an ongoing operation in support of enhancing spring peak flows for spawning and habitat maintenance and improvement in the 15 Mile Reach.

III. Study Background/Rationale and Hypothesis: The Fish and Wildlife Service sponsored research indicates that spring peak flows serve to facilitate spawning of two of the endangered fish species and may also serve to maintain and improve habitat in the 15 Mile Reach of the Colorado designated as critical habitat. The Coordinated Reservoir Operations Study, completed in 1996, indicated that reservoir owner operators, on a voluntary basis, could in some years make releases of inflow to augment peak flows in the 15 Mile Reach without jeopardizing yields. Coordinated Reservoir Operations have been conducted since the spring of 1997 in years where release of inflows would result in flows in the 15 Mile Reach of between 12,900 cfs to 26,600 cfs and when releases of

inflow would not jeopardize reservoir yields. The operation requires coordination and collaboration between the recovery program and reservoir owner/operators. The operation also requires annual notification of the public and public meetings to inform and gather feedback on the operations.

IV. Study Goals, Objectives, End Product: The goal of Coordinated Reservoir Operations is to make releases of inflow timed to enhance the peak flows in the 15 Mile Reach in support of spawning and habitat maintenance and improvement. Objectives include having reservoir owner/operators make voluntary releases of inflow in years where release of inflows would result in flows in the 15 Mile Reach of between 12,900 cfs to 26,600 cfs and when releases of inflow would not jeopardize reservoir yields. In past years when the operation has been in effect, increased releases of over 2500 cfs were achieved. The end product is to continue the operation and the additional activities and efforts required to coordinate the releases and provide for public involvement and input on the process.

V. Study Area: The area included in the operation includes the main stem of and tributaries to the Colorado River upstream of the confluence of the Gunnison. Major reservoirs that have participated in the past include Denver Water's Dillon and Williams Fork reservoirs, Colorado River Water Conservation District's Wolford Mountain Reservoir and the Bureau of Reclamation's Willow Creek, Granby, Green Mountain and Ruedi reservoirs.

VI. Study Methods/Approach: Methods and approach to Coordinated Reservoir Operations are covered under Task Description and Schedule.

VII. Task Description and Schedule:

Depending on water availability, Coordinated Reservoir Operations may or may not occur every year and thus all tasks in this schedule may not be required. A decision is made each spring, prior to the target date for releases, whether to proceed based upon water conditions.

Task 1 - April 1- 12 - The Committee meets and characterizes the type of runoff year based upon forecasts from the National Weather Service and other sources. Characterization of the runoff year will determine which set of 15 Mile Reach flow recommendations coordinated reservoir operations should strive to achieve. The committee also determines an approximate starting date and duration time for the voluntarily release of inflows to enhance the peaks.

Task 2 - April 15 - 30 - Press releases and public announcements mailed out.

Task 3 - April 12- 30 - Each reservoir owner / operator prepares annual operating plans for traditional and peak enhancement operations, for their respective reservoirs.

Task 4 - April 25- May 25 - A joint public meeting will be held to present plans for Coordinated Reservoir operations during the spring runoff and Ruedi Reservoir operations to meet flow targets during the late summer. The proposed annual

operating plans for each participating reservoir for the current year will be presented and public comment received. Public comments will be recorded and distributed as soon as possible thereafter.

Task 5 - May-July - The participating entities monitor runoff to determine more accurately the type of year being faced and their abilities to contribute to peak enhancement.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Colorado Division of Water Resources Division 5 Engineer determine when it is most appropriate to begin bypasses of inflow to enhance the peak in the 15-Mile Reach and notify the participants.

Task 6 - The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in cooperation with the participating reservoir owner/operators, jointly agree to conduct voluntarily release of inflows to enhance peaks as necessary and as they are able, and adjust operating plans as appropriate, including adjustments made based on public comment.

Task 7 - Colorado Division of Water Resources, Division 5 Engineer conducts an accounting of releases and provides a record of all water released to enhance the peak during the specified time frame. The Recovery Program monitors the effects of peak flows on endangered fish and critical habitat.

Task 8- During the peak enhancement release period the public will be informed through news releases to the media, direct mailings and email as necessary of any decisions to adjust reservoir operations and releases made to enhance flows for endangered fish purposes.

Task 9 - January - CWCB & Reclamation prepare a draft summary report with operator reports, Division 5 accounting and the Recovery Program monitoring reports included as attachments. The Coordinated Reservoir Operations participants review, modify and submit the report to the Recovery Program Water Acquisition Committee and the Management Committee and makes it available for general distribution. CWCB distributes the report to other interested parties on behalf of the Coordinated Reservoir Operations Committee on an as requested basis.

VIII. FY-2004 Work**Budget:****Coordinated Reservoir Operations - Estimated Costs FY
2004**

Task/Description	USBR			CWCB & Colorado State In Kind			Subtotals
	Units (days)	Unit Cost	Cost	Units (days)	Unit Cost	Cost	
Task 1 - Runoff Characterization							
Water Res. Engineer	1.5	\$685	\$1,028	2	\$505	\$1,010	
Clerical	0.5	\$262	\$131				
Task Subtotal			\$1,159			\$1,010	\$2,169
Task 2 - Initial Public Notification							
Water Res. Engineer	0.5	\$685	\$343	0.5	\$505	\$253	
Public Information Spec.	2	\$430	\$860				
Clerical	1	\$262	\$262			\$0	
Task Subtotal			\$1,465			\$253	\$1,717
Task 3 - Peak Enhancement Plans							
Water Res. Engineer	3	\$685	\$2,055	1	\$505	\$505	
Clerical	0.5	\$262	\$131				
Task Subtotal			\$2,186			\$505	\$2,691
Task 4 - Public Meeting							
Water Res. Engineer	2	\$685	\$1,370	1	\$505	\$505	
Public Information Spec.	2	\$430	\$860				
Clerical	0.5	\$262	\$131				
Meeting Room Rental			\$200				
Task Subtotal			\$2,561			\$505	\$3,066
Task 5 - Runoff Monitoring							
Water Res. Engineer	3	\$685	\$2,055	1	\$505	\$505	
Clerical	0.5	\$262	\$131				
Task Subtotal			\$2,186			\$505	\$2,691
Task 6 - CRO Releases							
Water Res. Engineer	5	\$685	\$3,425	1	\$505	\$505	
Hydrology Tech.	0.5	\$359	\$180				
Task Subtotal			\$3,605			\$505	\$4,110
Task 7 - Account & Monitor							

Water Res. Engineer				3	\$505	\$1,515	
Clerical				0.5	\$265	\$133	
Task Subtotal			\$0			\$1,648	\$1,648
Task 8 - Public Notification							
Public Information Spec.	4	\$430	\$1,720				
Clerical	2	\$262	\$524				
Task Subtotal			\$2,244				\$2,244
Task 9 - Annual Report							
Water Res. Engineer	5	\$685	\$3,425	10	\$505	\$5,050	
Clerical	0.5	\$262	\$131	3	\$265	\$795	
Materials/Printing						\$100	
Task Subtotal			\$3,556			\$5,945	\$9,501
Totals			\$18,961			\$10,875	\$29,836

IX. Budget Summary

Fiscal Year	RIP \$	CO State In-Kind \$
FY 2004	\$ 18,961	\$ 10,875
FY 2005	\$ 19,530	\$ 11,200
FY 2006	\$ 20,120	\$ 11,535
Total	\$ 58,611	\$ 33,615

X. Reviewers

George Smith
US Fish and Wildlife Service

XI. References

N/A